

The Sun

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1905.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	\$0.50
DAILY, Per Year	5.00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	6.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	.70

Postage to foreign countries added.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association, at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

If our friends who have with manuscripts for publication will send them to the publishers, they must in all cases send stamps for their postage.

Harriman and Odell.

Who was E. H. HARRIMAN that he should threaten T. F. RYAN with "legislative action"? He held no office. He was not, so far as known, a member of any political committee. What, then, was that "political influence" with which he threatened RYAN, in order to frighten him into surrendering half the stock of the Equitable?—The Evening Post.

Who was E. H. HARRIMAN that he should threaten T. F. RYAN with "legislative action"? E. H. HARRIMAN was the head of the contracting firm known as the Harriman-Odell firm, which, with Odell's guidance and assistance, stole money from the State treasury by the device of excavating mud on the Erie Canal and having it measured and paid for as rock. E. H. HARRIMAN has had the use of the New York Legislature for years, through his peculiar relations with Odell, and he has used it with the freedom of a man who neither consents nor the law could disturb. Consult the records at Albany.

When Odell went abroad this year he left his political power to HARRIMAN. The Republican leaders, the Odell triumvirate, NIXON, MALBY and RAINES, reported to HARRIMAN weekly at the office of the Union Pacific Railroad in this town for instructions. They got their instructions from HARRIMAN and they carried those instructions out.

When HARRIMAN, defeated in his desperate efforts to control the Equitable, saw it unexpectedly pass into the hands of T. F. RYAN, he threatened "legislative action." What did this mean? It meant everything. It included a committee of investigation, chosen and appointed by Odell, steered and controlled by HARRIMAN, and manned by men of exceptional fitness. It meant the prompt passage of a bill to forfeit the charter of the Equitable. It meant the appointment of a Harriman-Odell receiver for the Equitable. It meant anything besides that such a threat from a man as powerful and as unscrupulous as HARRIMAN could or should mean.

Odell opportunely returned from Europe. He resumed his place by HARRIMAN's side. He did his share of the work of blackmail. He did it so well that he could not undo it when he wanted to undo it. His "legislative action," which was at best a black-mailer's threat, was turned into actuality, by the Governor of the State, and hence the Armstrong committee, and hence the appalling scourge of Hughes.

Is the Evening Post any longer in ignorance as to who E. H. HARRIMAN was that he could do these things? An if it is the time for asking questions let us ask: Is it true that Odell was to have been made head of the Equitable, in place of HYDE, when HARRIMAN's comprehensive and magisterial plans were carried out?

Good Wishes.

What a service Attorney-General MOODY could render to the country by proving that the resources of the Department of Justice are adequate for the enforcement, in the regular courts of the United States, of any law and all laws in restraint of corporate greed, dishonesty or criminal unfairness to citizens!

More power to the Attorney-General's fingers and fist!

What a service the Attorney-General could render to the judicial system, which has stood the test of more than a century and a quarter, by a practical demonstration of the sufficiency of existing machinery for the prosecution and punishment of every violator of Federal law!

More power to his elbow!

What a service Mr. MOODY could render to his chief, President THEODORE ROOSEVELT, by showing how and why the Interstate Commerce Commission may be permitted to remain what it is and what it ought always to be, an unequivocally administrative body!

More power to the shoulder of the principal law officers of the Administration!

Changes in the New York Life.

MR. GEORGE W. PERKINS resigned yesterday as vice-president and chairman of the finance committee of the New York Life Insurance Company. This act had been long foreshadowed as the natural outcome of conditions in life insurance for which no business man, nor any impartial observer, can hold Mr. PERKINS individually responsible.

Mr. PERKINS has been the victim of methods which have grown to be universal in the business of life insurance, methods which have been unconcealed without becoming common knowledge, but methods which are deplorable and of which the tendency, had it continued, must inevitably have proved destructive.

The disclosures which have for months filled the public mind were precipitated without design or intention by the domestic quarrel of a group of gentlemen who were engaged in plundering the policyholders of one of the companies.

The ensuing legislative investigation led in turn to the most extraordinary revelations as to the conditions under which the business of life insurance was being carried on: relations for which neither the public nor those engaged in life insurance were in the least prepared.

Out of it all there stand out most conspicuously certain well defined features which concern the whole public. The

first and most important in the general acceptance is that which reveals the individual dishonesty of men invested with sacred trusts. The second, and in many respects the more serious, is that which discloses the Legislature of the State, and indeed the Legislatures of many States, as engaged in the systematic and elaborate blackmail of insurance corporations. This infamous system of plunder had grown to such dimensions that no insurance company escaped its operations and all yielded to it in a greater or less degree, and apparently had no thought of how it might be evaded, but only of how its extortions might be minimized.

There has been little consideration on the part of the public for the personnel of the insurance companies in this matter, almost as little as was shown for them by the chartered buccaners of the various States in which they did business. It is no defence of them that they were forced to submit to blackmail, but it would be fairer to them were it borne in mind what their alternative was. They had to submit to it or go out of business, and in our commercial life a man who allows himself to be driven out of business, who sacrifices his material self, for a principle, is brutally and ruthlessly classified as a fool. It very deeply affects the public welfare that this condition should exist. An aroused opinion will not tolerate that the people's representatives in the government of a great State should degenerate into an organization of blackmailers and thieves, and that all business, but especially that kind of business which is of the most intimate common concern, should be the prey of a system of robbery and extortion sanctioned and chartered by the very people itself.

Many men have emerged from this inquiry blasted in their reputations, ruined and humiliated in their private lives, and even doubtful of their personal liberty. This is because, unlike the retiring vice-president of the New York Life, it was shown that they had violated their trust and sought to contrive it to their own personal aggrandizement. In Mr. PERKINS' case it has been shown that the most scrupulous honor has determined his official conduct and that no dollar of illicit gain ever reached him. What he has to bear and what like others he may not escape is the imputation that he was part, a living and responsible part, of a deplorable system which neither he nor any one else had the power or the opportunity to resist. It will not do to forget that the things which are being changed, which are being cured, which are being eradicated, are underlying that process solely in obedience to public indignation and public resentment; that this supreme corrective contained the only practicable remedy, and that it required a legislative committee and a Hughes to arouse it. Nor will it do to impute to men as crimes what were really the occasions of misfortune that they could neither avoid nor control.

As to Mr. ALEXANDER E. ORR, who was elected to succeed Mr. PERKINS in the vice-presidency of the company, he needs no introduction to the public. There is no man whose well won reputation for integrity and honor stands higher in the community than does that of Mr. ORR; while as to special fitness and approved ability to meet the demands of a high fiduciary post of this character it may be doubted if a better choice could have been made.

The Central Prison Prison Idea.

The committee of which ex-Magistrate OMMEN is chairman made its report to the Society of Medical Jurisprudence on Monday night at least one valuable contribution to the discussion of the police station house question. This was the proposal that instead of locking prisoners up in eighty or ninety separate station houses they should be taken forthwith to central prisons to await hearing in court. Add to this that each central prison should be directly connected with a court, and the idea seems to amount to a feasible solution of the whole problem.

It involves neither expense to the city nor hardship to the prisoners, since the transit has to be made sooner or later, and the patrol wagons, which, of course, would remain attached to the police stations, would be used for transportation of the prisoners. All the details of recording arrests, accepting bail and the like may be just as well conducted at the prison as in the station house, or, indeed, much better. With the telephone and the police signal system always handy, it is hard to think of a case where any serious loss of efficiency would result from a policeman going to the prison with his prisoner instead of to the station house.

When it comes to a reconstruction of all the police buildings in the city on a civilized plan the central prison scheme, if anything, makes for economy. The city already has prisons attached to the Magistrates' courts, and it is probable that comparatively inexpensive additions would fit them to accommodate "the watch," as the police call the overnight batch of detained persons. For operating purposes, of course, some additional officers should be employed in these prisons; but it is extremely probable that their salaries could be saved through the disappearance of the most important duty of the desk sergeant and the doorman and of all need for matrons in the station houses.

The advantage to the prisoners would be obvious, as suitable quarters, with proper medical and other attention, would be assured to them.

At the Public Purse.

It costs a member of Congress nothing to introduce a bill. He can do it by his private secretary without bothering himself even to go to the legislative chamber where the body to which he belongs sits. The bill will be referred to a committee, printed, and then allowed to slumber peacefully. An unfortunate constituent is gratified, the printing bill is increased a little, and the record is straight. These are a few of the bills that have already been introduced in the House.

By Mr. RICHARDSON of Alabama.—To appropriate

\$500,000 for the investigation of all phenomena connected with the sun.

By Mr. TIERNEY.—To exterminate dogfish and dogfish sharks on the Atlantic coast.

By Mr. HOPKINS.—To prevent adulteration of blue grass, orchard grass and clover seed.

By Mr. NORTON.—To limit the hours of labor of railway employees.

By Mr. STAN.—To investigate the chemical composition and economic uses of cotton seed and its products.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER.—To establish a permanent national exposition in the District of Columbia.

By Mr. LAMB.—To appropriate \$200,000 for the Negro Development and Exposition Company of the United States.

By Mr. SIBLEY.—To prevent Sunday banking in post offices in the handling of money orders and registered letters.

By Mr. MORRISON.—To extend the sovereign visitatorial powers of the United States over certain life insurance and other corporations organized under State laws.

By Mr. STANLEY.—To create a Railway Capitalization Commission.

By Mr. MARTIN.—To license corporations engaged in interstate and foreign commerce in foodstuffs and fuel supplies.

By Mr. MORRISON.—To regulate the operation of motor vehicles between States.

By Mr. BOWEN.—To establish a board for the protection of children and animals.

By Mr. BUTLER of Pennsylvania.—To define the offense known as larceny, and provide punishment for the same at the several Academies.

By Mr. AUSTIN of Maine.—To prevent the unlawful use of the badge or insignia of the Grand Army of the Republic and other soldier organizations.

By Mr. BROWNLOW.—To prevent unoccupied upper berths in sleeping cars from being opened.

By Mr. BROWNLOW.—To establish a Bureau of Public Highways.

By Mr. BROWNLOW.—To establish a home for aged and infirm colored people.

The session is young yet, and up to Tuesday only 7,002 bills had been reported in the Congressional Record as having been introduced. The members are not in their stride. Before Congress adjourns for the holidays they will get down to business, and then the flood of bills will really begin. However, the members are doing pretty well in the early days of the session.

The Election in Boston.

The election on Tuesday of a Democratic Mayor of Boston was by a greatly reduced plurality, because of factional divisions peculiar to that contest. Mr. FITZGERALD obtained less than a majority over all the candidates by 3,772 votes, and his plurality over the regular Republican candidate was only about 8,000 votes, though two years ago the late PATRICK A. COLLINS, the Democratic candidate, was elected by a plurality of more than 30,000, and in the State election last month the plurality in Boston of the Democratic candidate for Governor was about 16,000.

Nothing in the election, however, indicated that there has been any change in the permanent political situation in Boston. The Puritan capital has become a strongly Democratic community, but at this election, because of temporary factions, Mr. FITZGERALD did not pull the full Democratic vote. That is, Boston was affected, though in a minor degree, by the political confusion which has disturbed so many of our municipal elections this year.

The passing over of Boston to the Democratic side has been a consequence of the great preponderance of the foreign born population of the town. Of the men of voting age in 1900 more than 46 per cent. were of foreign birth. Nearly two-thirds of the foreign population were from Ireland and Canada, 70,147 from the first and 50,282 from the second. The Jewish population was relatively small as compared with New York, yet it seems to have come third.

If, however, we add to the foreign born the native population of foreign parentage Boston is nearly three-quarters foreign. Only 26 per cent. of the population in 1900 was made up of native whites of native parentage. The Yankee has been put far in the rear in Boston. In 1900 out of its total population of 590,892 as many as 404,999 were of foreign parentage.

Arizona.

This idea of coercive Statehood—that is, the surrender and subordination of the American population of Arizona to the political mastery of the Mexican population in New Mexico—is sufficiently repugnant to the sense of fair play and decent procedure.

The proposal to accomplish this offhand by caucus machinery, under the party whip, stifling the opposition that recognizes no partisanship with regard to this question, shutting off full discussion, shutting out the facts which ought to be conclusive one way or the other, is intolerable.

There is no more reason this year than last year or any other year for forcing Arizona into a union with New Mexico—that is, no reason unless it can be shown by a separate vote of her own people that sentiment in the Territory is marvellously changed.

That demonstration is open to the advocates of joint Statehood for Arizona and New Mexico. There is, in our opinion, no other respectable settlement of the question.

To the marital troubles of the head of the greatest of our industrial corporations is now added the mortification which he must feel because of his relationship to a man who would make merchandise of them. His uncle offers to sell for \$100,000 "letters that have passed between ANDREW CARNEGIE, CHARLES M. SCHWAB, W. E. COREY and myself" on the subject. His notion is that the curiosity of people about such a matter will induce enough of them to buy the letters to put up the money. Of course, the character of this offer is in any way modified by the promise of the man to give to a religious and charitable undertaking the money he obtains for violating the confidence of his nephew and his other correspondents concerning the details of an unhappy disagreement which family pride, it would seem, would rather seek to keep from public exposure.

The executive council of the Tuskegee Institute is already formulating plans for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Institute. The formal opening of the school occurred in July, 1881, but the plan now is to commemorate the occasion in April. Announcement is made by the Tuskegee Student that President ELLIS of Harvard has consented to make one of the principal addresses.

The Rev. R. C. BEDFORD, secretary of the

board of trustees, is making a canvass of the former members of the Institute, both pupils and teachers, in preparation for an exhibit of their work. This should prove one of the most interesting features of a notable occasion, presenting a picture far more graphic than could be given in any verbal report of the practical results of Booker WASHINGTON's efforts for the advancement of his race.

With a fine perception of chivalrous character and legislative possibilities, ex-Queen LITTON-KALANI now commits a petition for financial relief in the amount of \$10,000,000 directly to the Hon. CHARLES W. FAIRBANKS.

To pay for a numbering of the domestic animals of the United States Representative Brooks of Colorado would impose "a tax of one mill on each head of cattle, horses, mules and asses, and one-fourth of one cent per head on every head of sheep and goats, and one cent per head on every swine." The Constitution Club should be alert. This may be a stealthy attack on the sacred instrument they so jealously guard. Mr. Brooks is a Republican, therefore a subverter of the liberties of the people. Is a tax imposed to pay for a census of domestic animals a direct tax within the meaning of the fourth subdivision of Section IX, of Article I?

Chronological.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: New York daily newspapers for June and July last record the following items:

June 8.—The purchase of the Hyde Equitable stock by Thomas F. Ryan announced.

June 10.—Odell arrives from Europe and comments on the Equitable situation as follows:

"I am very little about the trouble, except to say by the papers that they've made some changes. I know Mr. Morton is going. I've got a policy in the society. That's all I know about it."

June 12.—Harriman demands half of Ryan's Equitable stock and threatens that unless his demand is met he will take Ryan's financial and political independence.

June 13 and 14.—Further interviews between Mr. Ryan and Harriman.

June 15.—The Ryan trust deed is executed. Mr. Ryan having notified Harriman that he intended to carry out his original plan, no matter what Harriman or any one else did.

(June 16.—Burglars at E. H. Harriman's house.)

June 21.—Harriman's preliminary report on the Ryan public sale of Ryan's stock, means that the Legislature take into consideration the question of the investment of the funds of life insurance companies and establish a standard of investment. It also recommends the complete nationalization of the stock control, the stock to be paid for at a price only commensurate with its 7 per cent. dividends. "No superficial measures will correct the existing evils in the society."

July 1.—Odell, in a letter to Mr. Ryan's counsel, calls on District Attorney Jerome. He had called at the District Attorney's office once or twice before, but denied that he visits anything to do with Equitable affairs.

July 13.—The Supreme Court of the State publishes in a New York newspaper. The State Superintendent announces later that his department was not responsible for its publication. There were only three copies of the opinion, one copy was in the State Superintendent's safe; another was in the New York City office of the State Department and the seal of the envelope in which it was enclosed was unbroken; the third copy had been sent to the Attorney-General's office.

As an administrative question, which will remedy the existing conditions and restore the confidence of the policyholders, who have so much at stake. My observation has led me to believe that the conscience of the community as a whole is outraged by the conduct of the insurance companies, such as trust companies and banks, is dangerous, and that a necessary exists for a divergence between these interests. (\$75,000—)

Then the connection of insurance officers with other institutions often leads them to disregard the obligations which are incumbent upon them as officers of the public. The purpose of advancing the interests of such other companies and syndicates through which real estate and other speculative schemes are worked, and I believe that the insurance companies should be held to the part of insurance officials in the future.

Further, it seems to me that the scope of investments should be regulated and restricted. There is no reason why the insurance companies should be regarded in the same or a similar manner as savings banks. Their interests are almost identical. The hundreds of thousands of policyholders have a right to the recognition at the hands of the present Legislature.

July 19.—Governor Higgins reiterates his statement that he believes the State Superintendent can handle the situation.

July 20.—Governor Higgins sends in his special message, which results in the appointment of the investigating committee.

New York, Dec. 13. POLICEHOLDER.

Post-Election Confessions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: As Mr. McAdoo will not be at the head of the Police Department, Mr. McAdoo's second term following the story of why I did not vote for any candidate for Mayor and persuaded five of my friends to do likewise can hardly be described as ancient history. I may say that we all voted for Odell, and each as we saw fit in the case of candidates for other offices.

Now those six votes were lost to Mr. McAdoo, whom we all admired, because we saw that he was not the man to have allowed his Police Commissioner, an excellent traffic regulator, to set himself up as a censor and decide with the police on the matter of an inspector and a captain who was fit or unfit for us to see at the playhouse.

One of the things which I remember the matter said that I was a crank. Another said that I had failed in my duty to the community by not voting for Odell. A third said that I was a fool. Another said "Why didn't you vote for Odell? He was the only one who would have been able to handle the situation."

An old man, who is a very old man, I would rather see my country free than a country ruled by a man who would have been able to handle the situation.

As a matter of fact, I am a very old man, and I would rather see my country free than a country ruled by a man who would have been able to handle the situation.

New York, Dec. 13. F. J. G.

Booker T. Washington's Christmas Appeal.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Few things have given me greater pleasure during the last few days than the receipt of the copy of your issue of December 10, containing the Christmas appeal of the Tuskegee Institute. It is a beautiful thing, and I am sure that it will induce enough of them to buy the letters to put up the money. Of course, the character of this offer is in any way modified by the promise of the man to give to a religious and charitable undertaking the money he obtains for violating the confidence of his nephew and his other correspondents concerning the details of an unhappy disagreement which family pride, it would seem, would rather seek to keep from public exposure.

The executive council of the Tuskegee Institute is already formulating plans for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Institute. The formal opening of the school occurred in July, 1881, but the plan now is to commemorate the occasion in April. Announcement is made by the Tuskegee Student that President ELLIS of Harvard has consented to make one of the principal addresses.

The Rev. R. C. BEDFORD, secretary of the

board of trustees, is making a canvass of the former members of the Institute, both pupils and teachers, in preparation for an exhibit of their work. This should prove one of the most interesting features of a notable occasion, presenting a picture far more graphic than could be given in any verbal report of the practical results of Booker WASHINGTON's efforts for the advancement of his race.

With a fine perception of chivalrous character and legislative possibilities, ex-Queen LITTON-KALANI now commits a petition for financial relief in the amount of \$10,000,000 directly to the Hon. CHARLES W. FAIRBANKS.

To pay for a numbering of the domestic animals of the United States Representative Brooks of Colorado would impose "a tax of one mill on each head of cattle, horses, mules and asses, and one-fourth of one cent per head on every head of sheep and goats, and one cent per head on every swine." The Constitution Club should be alert. This may be a stealthy attack on the sacred instrument they so jealously guard. Mr. Brooks is a Republican, therefore a subverter of the liberties of the people. Is a tax imposed to pay for a census of domestic animals a direct tax within the meaning of the fourth subdivision of Section IX, of Article I?

I am very little about the trouble, except to say by the papers that they've made some changes. I know Mr. Morton is going. I've got a policy in the society. That's all I know about it."

June 12.—Harriman demands half of Ryan's Equitable stock and threatens that unless his demand is met he will take Ryan's financial and political independence.

June 13 and 14.—Further interviews between Mr. Ryan and Harriman.

June 15.—The Ryan trust deed is executed. Mr. Ryan having notified Harriman that he intended to carry out his original plan, no matter what Harriman or any one else did.

(June 16.—Burglars at E. H. Harriman's house.)

June 21.—Harriman's preliminary report on the Ryan public sale of Ryan's stock, means that the Legislature take into consideration the question of the investment of the funds of life insurance companies and establish a standard of investment. It also recommends the complete nationalization of the stock control, the stock to be paid for at a price only commensurate with its 7 per cent. dividends. "No superficial measures will correct the existing evils in the society."

July 1.—Odell, in a letter to Mr. Ryan's counsel, calls on District Attorney Jerome. He had called at the District Attorney's office once or twice before, but denied that he visits anything to do with Equitable affairs.

July 13.—The Supreme Court of the State publishes in a New York newspaper. The State Superintendent announces later that his department was not responsible for its publication. There were only three copies of the opinion, one copy was in the State Superintendent's safe; another was in the New York City office of the State Department and the seal of the envelope in which it was enclosed was unbroken; the third copy had been sent to the Attorney-General's office.

As an administrative question, which will remedy the existing conditions and restore the confidence of the policyholders, who have so much at stake. My observation has led me to believe that the conscience of the community as a whole is outraged by the conduct of the insurance companies, such as trust companies and banks, is dangerous, and that a necessary exists for a divergence between these interests. (\$75,000—)

Then the connection of insurance officers with other institutions often leads them to disregard the obligations which are incumbent upon them as officers of the public. The purpose of advancing the interests of such other companies and syndicates through which real estate and other speculative schemes are worked, and I believe that the insurance companies should be held to the part of insurance officials in the future.

Further, it seems to me that the scope of investments should be regulated and restricted. There is no reason why the insurance companies should be regarded in the same or a similar manner as savings banks. Their interests are almost identical. The hundreds of thousands of policyholders have a right to the recognition at the hands of the present Legislature.

July 19.—Governor Higgins reiterates his statement that he believes the State Superintendent can handle the situation.

July 20.—Governor Higgins sends in his special message, which results in the appointment of the investigating committee.

New York, Dec. 13. POLICEHOLDER.

Post-Election Confessions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: As Mr. McAdoo will not be at the head of the Police Department, Mr. McAdoo's second term following the story of why I did not vote for any candidate for Mayor and persuaded five of my friends to do likewise can hardly be described as ancient history. I may say that we all voted for Odell, and each as we saw fit in the case of candidates for other offices.

Now those six votes were lost to Mr. McAdoo, whom we all admired, because we saw that he was not the man to have allowed his Police Commissioner, an excellent traffic regulator, to set himself up as a censor and decide with the police on the matter of an inspector and a captain who was fit or unfit for us to see at the playhouse.

One of the things which I remember the matter said that I was a crank. Another said that I had failed in my duty to the community by not voting for Odell. A third said that I was a fool. Another said "Why didn't you vote for Odell? He was the only one who would have been able to handle the situation."

An old man, who is a very old man, I would rather see my country free than a country ruled by a man who would have been able to handle the situation.

As a matter of fact, I am a very old man, and I would rather see my country free than a country ruled by a man who would have been able to handle the situation.

New York, Dec. 13. F. J. G.

Booker T. Washington's Christmas Appeal.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Few things have given me greater pleasure during the last few days than the receipt of the copy of your issue of December 10, containing the Christmas appeal of the Tuskegee Institute. It is a beautiful thing, and I am sure that it will induce enough of them to buy the letters to put up the money. Of course, the character of this offer is in any way modified by the promise of the man to give to a religious and charitable undertaking the money he obtains for violating the confidence of his nephew and his other correspondents concerning the details of an unhappy disagreement which family pride, it would seem, would rather seek to keep from public exposure.

SECRETARY HITCHCOCK'S WIDENING CIRCLE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The activities of the Interior Department in the matter of "frauds" have thus far appeared most prominently on the Pacific Slope. It is known, however, that the dragnet has been sweeping quietly over a larger area. Signs of its operations have appeared from time to time in the region of the Rockies. It now shows up in Kansas. Information submitted to Mr. Hitchcock reveals extensive frauds in that State, and twenty-four indictments have already been issued. Many more are expected shortly.

Cattlemen are the offenders in this instance, and the charges against them are bribery, subornation of perjury and illegal forcing. These first fruits of the Kansas crop, the Secretary says, represent only "the result of investigation in two counties of the State, and by the time other counties are accounted for a remarkable disclosure will be made." Mr. Hitchcock also says that he understands that "all the men thus far indicted in connection with the Kansas frauds are wealthy cattlemen, who are accumulating Government land in a wholesale manner."

In connection with this important question there is significance in a certain passage of the recent annual report of the Secretary of the Interior. Among the recommendations therein submitted one calls for legislation which shall "proscribe punishment for persons who fraudulently obtain or attempt to obtain title to public lands." From this we infer that our various complex and antiquated land laws make no provision for the proper treatment of land thieves. It is high time that they be suitably amended. In his message Mr. Roosevelt says: "Once again I call your attention to the need of a law which shall make it a crime for any person to obtain title to public lands." Recent developments have given new urgency to the need for such changes as will fit these laws to actual present conditions. The iniquitous methods by which the monopolizing of the public lands is being brought about under the present laws are becoming more generally known, but the existing laws do not furnish effective remedies."

It would doubtless be a work of time to revise properly the entire system of land laws, but it would be the work of only a few minutes to draft, and of a few days to pass, a law providing a generous punishment for those who steal or attempt to steal land belonging to the people. It were as well to provide no punishment for stealing from the public treasury. A quick adoption of Mr. Hitchcock's recommendation would greatly strengthen his hands in the great work which he is doing with such notable fidelity.

An Illuminating Colloquy.

From the Congressional Record for Dec. 11.

MR. BAILEY.—For a century, the Senate must know, an invariable test of the due process of law has been that Legislatures must exercise legislative powers and courts must exercise judicial powers, and if a State should so far forget the wisdom of our system as to transfer its legislative powers upon the court and clothe the Legislature with the judicial function such an enactment would not stand the test of the Constitution.

MR. SPOONER.—The President—Does the Senator from Texas yield to the Senator from Wisconsin?

MR. BAILEY.—I do.

MR. SPOONER.—Of course, it has been held by the Supreme Court of the United States, as I remember, that the fixing of a rate to take effect in the future is a legislative function.

MR. BAILEY.—The court in the Reagan case says it is not.

MR. SPOONER.—Very well. I think the court changed that afterward. But what I want to ask the Senator is whether the question of the reasonableness of a rate, having been fixed by a railroad company and challenged, is, in his opinion, an administrative question.

MR. BAILEY.—The reasonableness of that particular rate is a judicial question. The courts held—

MR. SPOONER.—I thought the Senator called it an administrative question.

MR. BAILEY.—No, the reasonableness of the rate established—the question as to whether it is reasonable or not—is a judicial inquiry or a judicial question. The question as to whether it is an administrative function, in my judgment, the court says is in the Reagan case. "It is doubtless true—"

MR. SPOONER.—Of course, if the Senator will allow me, I do not disagree with him. Whether a rate is fixed by a railroad company or a specified service be an unreasonable rate or not—

MR. BAILEY.—That is a judicial question.

MR. SPOONER.—The Senator will agree with me that that is absolutely a judicial question.

MR. BAILEY.—I agree with the Senator, but I do not determine whether it was confiscatory or not.

Alexander Hamilton and William Ellis Corey.

From the Harrisburg Patriot.

THE SUN notes, as a remarkable evidence of the moral sensitiveness of the people of the United States, the popular demand for the removal of William Ellis Corey, president of the United States Steel Corporation, from the office of the United States Senator from Pennsylvania. Mr. Corey, who was elected to the Senate in 1902, is a man of high ability and high character, and his removal would be a great loss to the country. However, the demand for his removal is so strong that it is probable that he will be forced to resign.

MR. SPOONER.—Very well. I think the court changed that afterward. But what I want to ask the Senator is whether the question of the reasonableness of a rate, having been fixed by a railroad company and challenged, is, in his opinion, an administrative question.

MR. BAILEY.—The reasonableness of that particular rate is a judicial question. The courts held—

MR. SPOONER.—I thought the Senator called it an administrative question.

MR. BAILEY.—No, the reasonableness of the rate established—the question as to whether it is reasonable or not—is a judicial inquiry or a judicial question